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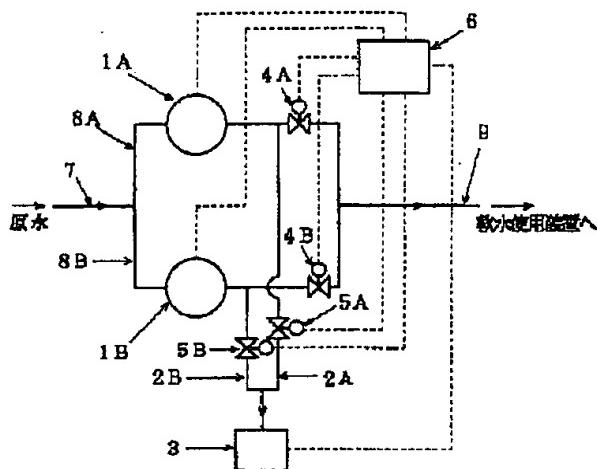
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INVENTOR : ICHIKI NAKI;

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TITLE : SOFTENING DEVICE OF PARALLEL  
 INSTALLATION CAPABLE OF  
 DETECTING ABNORMALITY IN EARLY  
 STAGE, AND METHOD FOR  
 OPERATION THEREOF



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**ABSTRACT :** PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To prevent hard water from being sent to a device using soft water, by detecting a regeneration abnormality in its early stages and making it possible to deal with it promptly in a softening device of parallel installation.

SOLUTION: This softening device is made up of plural softening units 1A, 1B which are installed in parallel among pipes 8A, 8B as branches of an untreated water pipe, and water supply control means 4A, 4B which select between the softening units 1A, 1B for supplying water to a device using soft water. Each of the softening units 1A, 1B is regenerated in such a timing manner that the regeneration process is performed while the other softening device supplies water to avoid the simultaneous regeneration by both units 1A, 1B. In this case, a hardness measuring device 3, which measures the hardness of water treated by the respective softening devices 1A, 1B and sampled water control means 5A, 5B, which sample the water to the hardness measuring device 3 and switches the softening units 1A, 1B are provided. This hardness measuring device 32 measures the hardness of the treated water produced by the softening 1A or 1B, which is through with the regeneration process and is in a standby position and outputs an abnormality when the hardness of the treated water is above a specified value so that the abnormality is to be dealt with prior to the start of sending the water for use.

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